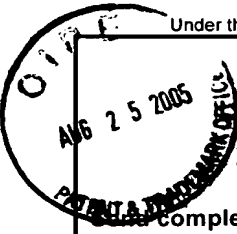


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PETITION FEE

Under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) & (h)

TRANSMITTAL

(Fees are subject to annual revision)

Completed form to: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/800,737
Filing Date	March 16, 2004
First Named Inventor	Shoji KODAMA
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	274.43200X00

Enclosed is a petition filed under 37 CFR §1.102(d) that requires a processing fee (37 CFR 1.17(f), (g), or (h)). Payment of \$ 130.00 is enclosed.

This form should be included with the above-mentioned petition and faxed or mailed to the Office using the appropriate Mail Stop (e.g., Mail Stop Petition), if applicable. For transmittal of processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17(i), see form PTO/SB/171.

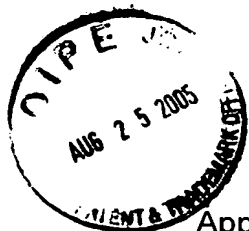
Payment of Fees (small entity amounts are NOT available for the petition (fees))

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1417:
- ☐ petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) or (h) ☒ any deficiency of fees and credit of any overpayments
- Enclose a duplicative copy of this form for fee processing.
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- ☒ Payment by credit card (From PTO-2038 or equivalent enclosed). Do not provide credit card information on this form.

Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(f):	Fee \$400	Fee Code 1462
For petitions filed under:		
§ 1.53(e) - to accord a filing date.		
§ 1.57(a) - to according a filing date.		
§ 1.182 - for decision on a question not specifically provided for.		
§ 1.183 - to suspend the rules.		
§ 1.378(e) for reconsideration of decision on petition refusing to accept delayed payment of maintenance fee in an expired patent.		
§ 1.741(b) - to accord a filing date to an application under §1.740 for extension of a patent term.		
Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(g):	Fee \$200	Fee code 1463
For petitions filed under:		
§1.12 - for access to an assignment record.		
§1.14 - for access to an application.		
§1.47 - for filing by other than all the inventors or a person not the inventor.		
§1.59 - for expungement of information.		
§1.103(a) - to suspend action in an application.		
§1.136(b) - for review of a request for extension of time when the provisions of section 1.136(a) are not available.		
§1.295 - for review of refusal to publish a statutory invention registration.		
§1.296 - to withdraw a request for publication of a statutory invention registration filed on or after the date the notice of intent to publish issued.		
§1.377 - for review of decision refusing to accept and record payment of a maintenance fee filed prior to expiration of a patent.		
§1.550(c) - for patent owner requests for extension of time in <u>ex parte</u> reexamination proceedings.		
§1.956 - for patent owner requests for extension of time in <u>inter partes</u> reexamination proceedings.		
§ 5.12 - for expedited handling of a foreign filing license.		
§ 5.15 - for changing the scope of a license.		
§ 5.25 - for retroactive license.		
Petition Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(h):	Fee \$130	Fee Code 1464
For petitions filed under:		
§1.19(g) - to request documents in a form other than that provided in this part.		
§1.84 - for accepting color drawings or photographs.		
§1.91 - for entry of a model or exhibit.		
§1.102(d) - to make an application special.		
§1.138(c) - to expressly abandon an application to avoid publication.		
§1.313 - to withdraw an application from issue.		
§1.314 - to defer issuance of a patent.		

Name (Print/Type)	Carl I. Brundidge	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	29,621
Signature		Date	August 25, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



274.43200X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Shoji KODAMA

Serial No.: 10/800,737

Filed: March 16, 2004

For: MORE GRANULAR AND MORE EFFICIENT WRITE
PROTECTION FOR DISK VOLUMES

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
UNDER 37 CFR §1.102(MPEP §708.02)**

MS Petition

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 25, 2005

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to make the above-identified application special in accordance with 37 CFR §1.102(d). Pursuant to MPEP §708.02(VIII), Applicants state the following.

(A) This Petition is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(h).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payment due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

(B) All claims are directed to a single invention.

If the Office determines that all claims are not directed to a single invention, Applicant will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status in conformity with established telephone restriction practice.

01 FC:1464

130.00 OP

(C) A pre-examination search has been conducted.

The search was directed towards a storage system. In particular, the search was directed towards a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system including a storage media upon which the volume is represented, a disk controller which controls the storage system, and a write once read many (WORM) configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of the volume is write protected or write protected areas of the volume each being defined by use of beginning and ending offsets.

The search of the above features was conducted in the following areas:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclasses</u>
707	1, 10, 100, 101, 104.1, 205
711	100-105, 111, 112, 114, 153, 154, 163, 170-173, 200-209, 220, 221

Additionally, a computer database search was conducted on the USPTO systems EAST and WEST.

(D) The following is a list of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims:

<u>U.S. Patent Number</u>	<u>Inventors</u>
5,043,967	Gregg et al
5,321,824	Burke et al
5,491,807	Freeman et al
5,790,848	Wlaschin
6,108,285	Freeman et al
6,370,534	Odom et al
6,542,971	Reed
RE 35,881	Barrett et al

A copy of each of these references (as well as other references uncovered during the search) is enclosed in an accompanying IDS.

(E) It is submitted that the present invention is patentable over the references for the following reasons.

It is submitted that the cited references, whether taken individually or in combination with each other, fail to teach or suggest the invention as claimed. In particular, the cited references, at a minimum, fail to teach or suggest as recited in the claims:

a first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of the volume is write protected; and

a second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11 of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate write protected areas of the volume each being defined by use of a beginning offset and an ending offset.

Further, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the above noted features of the present invention when taken in combination with other limitations recited in the claims.

To the extent applicable to the present Petition, Applicants submit that although the distinguishing features may represent a substantial portion of the claimed invention, the claimed invention including said features and their inter-operation provides a novel storage system and system and method related to or implemented in or by said storage system not taught or suggested by any of the references of record.

The references considered most closely related to the claimed invention are briefly discussed below:

Gregg (U.S. Patent No. 5,043,967) discloses a WORM data storage medium that includes primary and secondary data storage areas in which data and pointers to allocated but unwritten update areas are written. Original and updated data is written in a write sequence or chain of primary data areas separated by branched secondary data storage areas. The most recent updated data is found in a two level search of primary and then secondary data storage areas in order to save time by searching only those secondary areas where the most recent update exist. At the time that data is written to any one of the primary data storage areas, a group of secondary data storage areas having a known number of areas and a predetermined sequence of areas are assigned to that one primary data storage area. Data is written to the secondary data storage areas assigned to the one primary data storage area before writing data to the next sequential primary data storage area. The primary data storage areas are read in sequence without reading their corresponding secondary data storage areas in order to find the first primary storage area in which data is not

written. The most recent updated data is found by reading the preceding primary data storage area and the secondary data storage areas assigned to the preceding primary data storage area until an unwritten data storage area following the most recent data is found. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 2, line 57-column 3, line 5).

However, unlike the present invention, Gregg does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Gregg does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Gregg does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Gregg at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Burke (U.S. Patent No. 5,321,824) discloses a write-once read-many (WORM) disk that stores data in continuation chains. Each chain being arranged

as a plurality of groups of contiguous data storing areas (such as disk sectors, clusters of sectors, tracks and the like). The groups are separated on the disk. Each recorded area in the chain has a forward pointer to a next succeeding area of the chain, whether such succeeding area is in the same chain or in a next chain. A last succeeding one of the groups includes unrecorded allocated area(s) of the chain. To find the end of the chain, only the last area of each successive group is accessed and read until a last area of a last group is accessed with an indication that such last group area is unrecorded. Then the entire last group is scanned to find the last recorded area of the chain. Each WORM disk medium typically has a multiplicity of tracks, each of the tracks being divided into a plurality of addressable sectors. In the illustrated embodiment, each sector constitutes a respective one of the-addressable areas. The format of each addressable area 15 (FIG. 12) includes a reverse pointer 16 pointing to the addressable area which was immediately previously recorded on the disk medium; such a reverse pointer is not necessary for practicing the present invention. A data field 17 stores data. Such data may be user data, directory data, disk status data, and the like. In fact all data stored on a disk may be stored in this format. Finally, forward pointer 18 points to a next one of the addressable areas in the continuation chain; the last one of the addressable areas having field 17 filled with data pointers to a next addressable area which is null, i.e. stores no pointers 16, 18 nor does it have a data field 17, or has a data field which is either empty or partially filled. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 3, lines 1-19).

However, unlike the present invention, Burke does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Burke does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Burke does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Burke at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Freeman (U.S. Patent No. 5,491,807) discloses a computer system and method for efficiently managing Write Once Read Mostly (WORM) volumes on mass optical storage devices. A configuration menu asks the user to enter a threshold percentage from 1-100%. The threshold percentage is multiplied by the volume size to determine a threshold block address. New files are written sequentially to the WORM volume up to but not exceeding the threshold block address, unless a threshold override indicator is enabled. Space on the WORM

volume between the threshold block address and the end of the WORM volume is reserved for updated files. Updated files can be stored anywhere on the WORM volume, including above the threshold block address. Reserving space for updated files on a WORM volume allows more updated files to be stored on the same WORM volume as original files, and reduces the number of optical disks required to be read. The threshold percentage can be modified by the user at any time desired. Block 57 takes the next available block address and adds it to the length of the file to see if this sum exceeds the threshold block address. If it does not, the file, whether a new file or an updated file, is written to the WORM volume in block 58 and the program ends in block 65. If the threshold is exceeded, block 59 checks to see if the threshold override indicator is enabled. If it is, flow of control skips block 60 and moves directly to block 62. If the threshold override indicator is not enabled (off), block 60 checks to see if this file is a new file or an updated file. It does this by looking for a file name on the WORM volume that matches the file name of the file to be written. If the file to be written is a new file, the request to write this new file is rejected in block 61, because no new files can be written in a data area greater than the threshold block address. Block 61 posts an error code which gives the user an error message such as "threshold exceeded", and the program ends in block 65. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 3, line 64-column 4, line 13).

However, unlike the present invention, Freeman '807 does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Freeman

'807 does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Freeman '807 does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Freeman '807 at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Wlaschin (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,848) discloses a distributed storage system that provides a method and apparatus for storing, retrieving, and sharing data items across multiple physical storage devices that may not always be connected with one another. The distributed storage system of the present invention comprises one or more `partitions` on distinct storage devices, with each partition comprising of a group of associated data files. Partitions can be of various types. Journal partitions may be written to by a user and contain the user's updates to shared files. In the preferred embodiment, journal partitions reside on a storage device associated with a client computer in a client-server architecture. Other types of partitions, library and archive partitions, may reside

on storage devices associated with a server computer in a client-server architecture. The files on the journal partitions of the various clients may, at various times, be merged into a file resident within the library partition. If two or more clients attempt to update or alter data related to the same file, the system resolves the conflict between the clients to determine which updates, if any, should be stored in the library partition. The merge operation may occur at various time intervals or be event driven. The archive partition stores files from the library partition. Prior art methods may not be used in conjunction with append-only media such as write-once read-many (WORM) disks. In the preferred embodiment, the journal partition of the present invention comprises a series of objects that are written sequentially to physical memory. The journal partition stores older versions of objects such that a user may retrieve data that had been changed. The objects correspond to data items, such as a record in a database or a text file. A table is stored to track the location of objects within the journal partition. (See, e.g., Abstract, column 2, lines 30-33, column 2, line 66-column 3, line 6).

However, unlike the present invention, Wlaschin does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Wlaschin does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Wlaschin does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate

whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Wlaschin at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Barrett (U.S. Reissue No. 35,881) discloses a method and apparatus for storing files on a computer file storage device. The files are organized into an hierarchical directory structure. The directory structure comprises directory entries and file entries. The file entries and directory each contain a primary and a secondary pointer. The secondary pointer is initially set to a predefined value. When an entry is to be updated, the secondary pointer is overridden with a value that points to the superseding entry. This directory structure is especially suitable to be used in a write-once computer memory. Since the FEProm is effectively a write once device, at least until everything is erased, an area where data is stored cannot be rewritten when an update to a file occurs. In a preferred embodiment, the updated data is written to a different area of the FEProm, as described below. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 10, lines 7-17).

However, unlike the present invention, Barrett does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as

in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Barrett does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Barrett does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Barrett at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Freeman (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,285) discloses a directory structure for WORM optical media that supports a multi-level tree structure containing several paths. When a user defines the first path on the WORM volume, a file directory group is created for that path. A path directory entry pointing to this file directory group is written to the path directory group. Files having this path name are initially written into the first data file area next to this file directory group. The first data file area grows as data is written into it. When a second path is defined, the first data file area is closed and a second file directory group is created on the WORM volume next to the first data file area, thereby wasting little if any space.

The path directory group is updated with a new path directory entry that points to this new file directory group. Files having this second path name are written into a growing second data area. If the user now wants a file having the first path name to be written to the disk, a file directory entry is placed in the first file directory group, but the file itself is written into the growing second data file area. In this manner, files are associated with directory entries by a common path name, not necessarily physical location on the disk, although files tend to be relatively close to their associated directory entry. Field 614 contains the pointer to the next or previous path directory block in the path directory group. This field is used to double chain multiple path directory groups, if any. If a path directory group runs out of space to store any more path directory blocks for new paths, a new path directory group is allocated. Field 614 allows the last block of the old path directory group to point to the first block of the new path directory group, and vice versa. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 5, line 61-column 6, line 5).

However, unlike the present invention, Freeman '285 does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Freeman '285 does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Freeman '285 does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a

size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Freeman '285 at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Odom (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,534) discloses blocking techniques for data storage. Methods to store a first data structure having zero or more fixed-length data items and a reference to a second data structure are described. The second data structure having a variable-length data item (indicated by the reference) may also be stored in the memory. In addition, methods to validate and repair a pointer element having a file identification portion and a file offset portion are described. The methods include determining if the file identification portion indicates an allocated file and indicating an invalid pointer condition if the file identification portion indicates an unallocated file, else determining if the file offset portion indicates an allocated block in the allocated file, and indicating an invalid pointer condition if the file offset portion indicates an unallocated block. The described methods may be stored in any media that is readable and executable by a programmable control device. Blocking techniques may also be applied to a database's index element. Referring to FIG. 3, if index element 300 is implemented as a link list, blocking in accordance with the invention also

provides a mechanism to compensate for corrupt pointers (e.g., link list pointer 304 and data pointer 308). Prior art database systems avoided the use of linked list indexes because of the perceived reliability problems associated with pointers: if a pointer was broken (i.e., its value had been corrupted) it was assumed to be an unrecoverable error requiring the entire index to be rebuilt. Blocking in accordance with the invention, however, enables use of link list indexes (providing their attendant benefits, see commonly owned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/264,298) and overcomes the long-held belief that link lists are inherently unreliable. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 5, lines 1-15).

However, unlike the present invention, Odom does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Odom does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Odom does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Odom at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these

features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Dorward (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0018878) discloses data storage techniques particularly well-suited for use in archival data storage. In one aspect of the invention, a data block is processed to generate an address as a function of the contents of the data block, and the data block is then stored in the system in a memory location identified by the address. The processing operation is configured to provide write-once archival storage of the data block, in that the contents of the data block are not modifiable without also altering the address of the data block determinable in the processing operation. In an illustrative embodiment, the processing of the data block involves determining a substantially unique identifier of the data block by applying a collision-resistant hash function to the contents of the data block, and the address is subsequently determined from the substantially unique identifier by utilizing the identifier to perform a lookup of the address in an index. FIG. 4 shows an example index 400 in greater detail. The index 400, which may be implemented in the form of a disk-resident hash table, is divided into fixed-sized buckets, denoted bucket₀, bucket₁, bucket₂, etc., each of which may be stored as a single disk block. Each bucket contains the index map for a small section of the fingerprint space. (See, e.g., Abstract and paragraph 51).

However, unlike the present invention, Dorward does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Dorward does not

teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Dorward does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Dorward at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Reed (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,971) discloses a buffering system attached to a memory for holding write-once, read-once data that is accessed by one or more peripheral devices. Data that is otherwise destined to be written to main memory is written, instead, into a storage buffer. The buffer is written using an address contained in a write pointer that is updated according to a predetermined pattern after the write operation. After updating the write pointer, if the address equals the read pointer, some or all of the buffer is flushed to the memory. Data is read from the buffer using an address contained in a read pointer that is updated according to the same predetermined pattern after the read operation. Any deviation from the pattern in either writing or reading the buffer causes the

some or all of the buffer to be flushed to main memory and the read pointer to be updated accordingly. Also included in the buffering system is pointer circuitry for updating the write pointer after writing the buffer to point to the next location for writing in the buffer in response to a write-pointer match, and for updating the read pointer after reading the buffer to point to the next location for reading the buffer in response to a read-pointer match. (See, e.g., Abstract and column 2, line 52-60).

However, unlike the present invention, Reed does not teach or suggest a storage system for protecting data stored on a volume of the storage system as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, Reed does not teach or suggest the use of a WORM configuration table having a plurality of entries which indicate by use of a next write pointer which of a plurality of areas of said volume is write protected as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Further, Reed does not teach or suggest that the entries indicate whether the volume is WORM enabled, and that the entries indicate a size of each of the areas of the volume as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

More particularly, Reed at a minimum does not teach or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Therefore, since the cited references at a minimum fail to teach or the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, and further fail to teach or suggest these features of the present invention in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable over the cited references whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other.

F. Conclusion

Applicant has conducted what it believes to be a reasonable search, but makes no representation that "better" or more relevant prior art does not exist. The United States Patent and Trademark Office is urged to conduct its own complete search of the prior art, and to thoroughly examine this application in view of the prior art cited herein and any other prior art that the United States Patent and Trademark Office may locate in its own independent search. Further, while Applicant has identified in good faith certain portions of each of the references listed herein in order to provide the requisite detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references, the United States Patent and Trademark Office should not limit its review to the identified portions but rather, is urged to review and consider the entirety of each reference, and not to rely solely on the identified portions when examining this application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests that this Petition to Make Special be granted and that the application undergo the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02 VIII.

G. Fee (37 C.F.R. 1.17(i))

The fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is to be paid by:

☒ the Credit Card Payment Form (attached) for \$130.00.


☐ charging Account _____ the sum of \$130.00.

A duplicate of this petition is attached.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.,
Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (274.43200X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Reg. No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120